

Amendments to the Drawings

The drawing sheets attached in connection with the above-identified application containing Figures 1-2 are being presented as new formal drawing sheets to be substituted for the previously submitted drawing sheets. Specifically, Figure 2 has been amended to include reference numeral 4. Appended to this Amendment is an annotated copy of the previous drawing sheet which has been marked to show changes presented in the replacement sheet of the drawing.

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow. This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

Claims 1-15 were previously cancelled without prejudice and Claim 29 is currently being cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 16, 18-21, 24, 30-32, 35-36, 39, and 44-45 are currently being amended.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 16-28 and 30-45 are now pending in this application.

Drawings

On page 2 of the Office Action the Examiner objected to the Drawings asserting: "Figure 2 fails to show 'interior 4' as defined in the specification [Page 5, Line 32]." Support for adding numeral 4 to Figure 2 is found on Page 5, lines 29-34 of the English translation of the application as originally filed.

Specification

On pages 2-3 of the Office Action the Examiner objects to the disclosure asserting enumerated informalities. It is respectfully asserted the Examiner's objections are based upon the disclosure as originally filed and not on the Applicant's Substitute Specification that was mailed February 28, 2005 and received by the Office. Attached herewith is a copy of the Substitute Specification and a copy of the stamped, return postcard noting the Office received the Substitute Specification. *See Exhibit A* (including return postcard). Applicant respectfully notes that the application published as U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0242601 A1

includes the amendments submitted in the Substitute Specification. The Examiner's objection to the disclosure are respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

Applicant has amended Paragraph [0003] of the Substitute Specification to read "sufficiently thin" as opposed to "sufficiently thinly". Accordingly, it is respectfully asserted this informality has been appropriately corrected and the objection should be withdrawn.

Claims 16 and 20 have been amended solely in light of the Examiner's objections made on page 3 of the Office Action to overcome any informality in the Claims. The Examiner also states, on page 3, that: "Claims 21, 24, 36, and 44 are objected to because of the following informalities: Applicant should avoid the use of acronyms (by themselves) to prevent confusion." It is respectfully asserted that the terms used in Claims 21, 24, 36, and 44 are fully supported in the disclosure as originally filed and the Substitute Specification and that such terms would be definite and clear to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the filing of the application. Accordingly, it respectfully requested the objection be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 112 Claim Rejections

On pages 3-4 of the Office Action, Claims 18-19 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 18 is amended to make clear that it is "the translucent covering layer [that]" comprises an elastomer and Claim 19 is amended to make definite that "the translucent covering layer comprises" two plastic films and a gel-like substance[.]" Additionally, Claim 29 is cancelled. Accordingly, it is respectfully asserted that Claims 18 and 19 are definite and the objection made with respect to Claim 29 is now moot and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejection thereof is requested.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Claim Rejections

On pages 5-6 of the Office Action, Claims 16-17, 20-21, 23-25 and 29 were rejected as anticipated by Parker et al. (U.S. 5,895,115). Amended Claim 16 recites:

16. A lining element for the interior of a vehicle, in particular a motor vehicle, comprising:
a base part;
a surface side facing the interior of the vehicle and suitable for emitting light;
at least one angled mirrored surface distributed in the lining element to reflect light there from; and
a translucent covering layer wherein the covering layer is designed to be elastically compressible. (underlining added for emphasis).

Parker et al. completely fail to disclose an angled mirrored surface distributed in the lining element to reflect light there from. Accordingly, the 35 § 102 rejection is no longer applicable since there is no single prior art reference that discloses each and every element as set forth in the claim, either expressly or inherently described.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the 35 U.S.C. § 102 rejections be withdrawn.

Independent Claim 31 has been amended similarly to Claim 16 and is believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons articulated with respect to Claim 16. Claims 17-28 and 32-45 that depend from Claims 16 and 31 are also necessarily not anticipated by the Parker et al. reference.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Claim Rejections

In the Office Action, Claim 22 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Parker et al. (U.S. 5,895,115) in view of Miller (U.S. 6,227,689).

Parker et al. discloses “one light source 9 and associated light transition region 10 at each end of the panel member 28.” Column 8, lines 41-42. Additionally, Parker et al disclose and teach “light sources 31 such as LEDs or incandescent or halogen lamps (with or without reflectors) may also be strategically mounted inwardly (i.e., behind) the inner surface of the light



It is respectfully asserted that the Parker et al. reference, alone or in any combination, including with the Miller reference, fails to teach or suggest a lining element for the interior of a vehicle including a base part, a surface side facing the interior of the vehicle and suitable for emitting light, at least one angled mirrored surface distributed in the lining element to reflect light there from; and a translucent covering layer wherein the covering layer is designed to be elastically compressible.

Applicant asserts that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.



Serial No.: 10/525,782
Atty. Dkt. No. 026032-4855

A two month extension of time is required and a petition requesting a two month extension of time is hereby requested in the Transmittal and the accompanying fee is paid. If any additional extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of this AMENDMENT AND REPLY UNDER 37 CFR 1.111 and the papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of necessary fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1447.

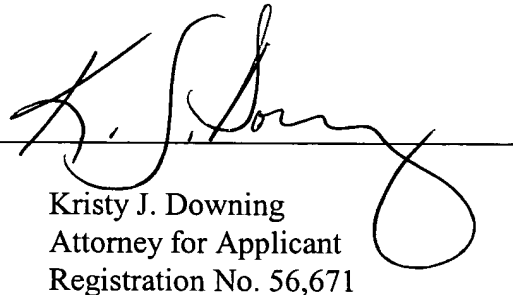
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 06-1447.

Respectfully submitted,

Date March 16, 2007

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